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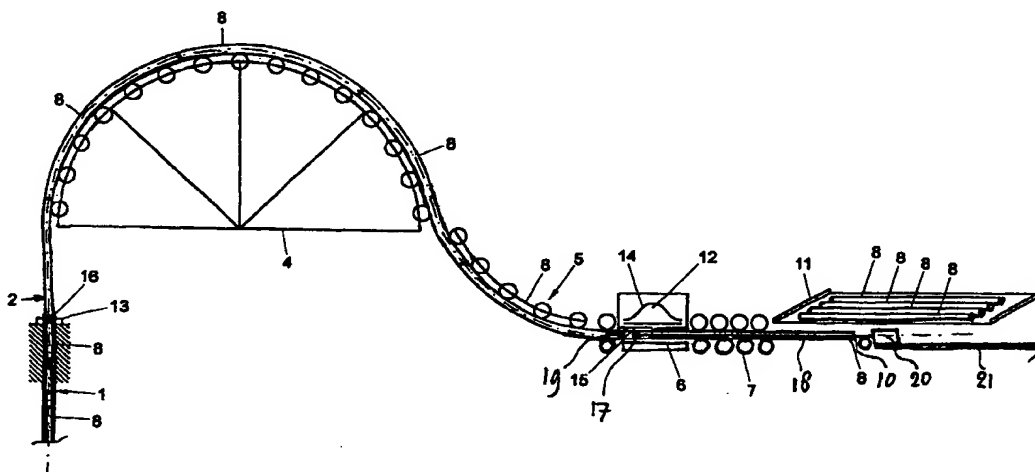
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(54) Title: PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

When inserting a tube (2) into a borehole (1) in the ground for extracting minerals, tube parts (8) are successively added to the proximal end of the tube (2) while the tube (2) reaches into the borehole (1). Thereafter, the tube (2) is inserted further into the borehole (1). As the addition of the tube part (8) is carried out by welding, each time an eminently sealing and slender joint between the tube parts is obtained. As the tube parts are successively added to the tube only when this is necessary for inserting the tube further into the ground, winding up the tube to store it prior to insertion is not necessary and the use of a tube-carrying reel which is difficult to handle is thus rendered redundant. Further, an installation for carrying out the proposed method is described.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter. Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E21B F16L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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